

April 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Gruenberg,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed idea of Wal-Mart opening its own bank in America. I feel that this idea would pose a dangerous threat to what America stands for in the eyes of the world: a free-market economy.

Wal-Mart stores in general currently pose a serious threat to American communities, mainly due to their extremely low prices that drive small businesses out of business. By allowing Wal-Mart the unjustified privilege of also dominating this section of the economy, Wal-Mart would drive community banks out of business in a similar fashion.

If Wal-Mart is allowed to open its own bank, Wal-Mart would not only take capital from local businesses, but could also refuse to make loans to local businesses that could possibly compete with their store. This is not fair to business owners, particularly if there is no other bank in town because Wal-Mart has driven the others out.

Basically, what this comes down to is, would you feel comfortable knowing that the largest corporation in the world is about to open a bank in your hometown? Think of what kind of threat this would pose to commercial and financial independence.

Please consider these issues when you decide whether or not Wal-Mart should be allowed to open its own bank. Also, please attend the hearing and listen to the comments and concerns of witnesses who are experienced in dealing with Wal-Mart. This topic should be of utmost concern.

Jennifer Rowland